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Approved For Release 2006/11/13 : CIA-RDP81B00401R002000170009-6

The Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D.C. 20505

1 MAY 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR: Secretary of Defense

FROM : Chairman, Policy Review Committee (Intelligence)

SUBJECT : Intelligence Priorities

1. At the meeting on 15 March of the PRC(I), we reviewed the draft lists of long-term and current priority topics for intelligence collection and production. After discussion, the Committee opted to have individual members submit proposed amendments, additions, and deletions with the hope that such changes could be resolved without a further meeting.

2. The Department of Defense and Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Department of State, the Department of Treasury, and Arms Control and Disarmament Agency all proposed changes. I have incorporated these where possible, but not in every instance. The reason in most cases for not accepting a proposed revision in its totality was the tendency to increase the number of high priority items. I feel it is necessary to keep a lid on this, and accordingly have not incorporated all recommendations for increasing priorities or for adding more high priority questions. It seems to me that it is not only important to hold down the total number of high priorities, but to show a difference of emphasis within each category and between categories.

3. For the same reason, I have lowered several of the priorities assigned to topics in the lists tabled at our meeting on 15 March. Please note, however, that I have raised the priority of the Soviet foreign policy item in the basic list from 2 to 1, on grounds that it deserves as much attention as the military issues.

4. My consolidation of the amendments is attached. I am also enclosing for certain addressees brief comments on suggested changes that have not been incorporated.

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5. I request your concurrence to issue the attached lists as guidance from the PRC(I) to the intelligence community. Once they are issued, I will proceed as agreed at our last meeting to set in motion a procedure to review the topics every four months and to make an annual reassessment.

STANSFIELD TURNER

Attachments

cc: Secretary of Energy

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Comments on Changes Suggested by DoD/JCS

All but a few of the additions and adjustments proposed by DoD and JCS have been incorporated in the revised lists. Eight of the ten new items proposed by Defense have been included, in one place or another, as well as the suggested additions to existing items. I have not, however, deleted five questions listed under developing countries, as proposed by DoD/JCS, because of strong interest in these requirements among other consumers.

More specific comments relating to the current interest list, keyed to the numbering of the proposed text submitted by DoD, follow:

Advanced Countries

Item 7: Several of the questions in this proposed item have been melded into Item 6. I believe the others are already embraced in the substance of Item 6. We will make sure that these more specific questions are covered when the NITs are translated by the intelligence community into more precise and detailed requirements.

Item 8: The substance of this question has been added to Item 4.

USSR and Eastern Europe

Item 4: These issues seem to be encompassed by Items 3 (as amended) and 4 on our new list.

Item 5: Added to our Item 3.

Item 7: The questions here again seem to be a subset of a broader question already on the list, i.e., those dealing with strategy, doctrine, capabilities, and intentions. In my view, the broad questions should be elaborated in the more specific guidance developed by the community, and we will ensure that they are so included.

In most cases, I have accepted DoD/JCS suggestions for changes in priority. Where I did not it was mainly to hold down the total number of high priorities. In the case of the item on NATO in the long-term list, I believe a "3" is appropriate in view of the fact that much of the information is obtainable from other than intelligence sources.

ITEM 2

Secretary Brown's
Letter, 17 July